

For immediate release

With more people experiencing loneliness as a result of the pandemic, Homesharing is being [hailed as a brilliant](#) solution for all.

Homesharing, where an older person opens their home to someone looking for affordable accommodation in exchange for companionship and help around the house, has been around for decades. But Homeshare organisations have seen a significant surge in new interest from both Householders and Sharers because of the pandemic.

“People of all ages, many of whom have enjoyed full and busy lives, have found it hard to spend so much time alone during lockdown. Phone calls and video calls can be a lifeline, but of course loneliness and isolation are still issues when there is no one else around,” said Marian Pocock, who runs the Homeshare service in Oxfordshire.

Homeshare Oxford has recently had a steady stream of interest and lots of conversations with older people who would like some company in their home and the reassurance that this can bring.

“I think it’s reassuring for people who are considering Homeshare to know that we have safely brought people together during the pandemic and for them to hear how our matches are as strong as ever during lockdown.”

University researcher, 32-year-old Jen, now living in Marston with 83-year-old Mary, said, “I am very grateful to be here during lockdown. I know that I’m in a safe environment. It’s great to have a quiet space in which to work from home and have the good company of Mary. I’ve been more than happy to be able to help with anything in the house and to get bits of shopping that we need. We’ve both said how lucky we are to be together and are acutely aware of others in much less fortunate positions.”

Homeshare Oxford, which matches people across Oxfordshire, is as busy as ever. “We look set to confirm two new matches this week, in Oxford and Abingdon, and three new Householders have come on board in the past couple of weeks,” said Marian.

“The Homeshare concept strikes a chord with so many people. The needs of both parties are met in a kind, understanding way. It’s much more than just a living situation. Very often genuine friendships develop which is so heart-warming.”

“A lot of careful work goes into the matching process and in finding ‘the right person for the right person’. As a local organisation, we are nearby to support the arrangement once it is in place and we keep in regular touch. We also have contact with family members and friends, who are reassured that someone is there with their elderly relative or friend when they can’t be.”

You can find out about Homeshare Oxford’s current accommodation opportunities on [their website](#) where you can read more about how Homeshare works.

“We currently have several Sharers looking for Oxfordshire accommodation and a number of Householders looking forward to welcoming someone into their homes. If you, or someone you know, might be interested in Homesharing in Oxfordshire, and who may feel less daunted by living alone at the moment, please do get in touch.”

ENDS

Notes to Editor

About Homeshare Oxford

Homeshare Oxford carefully matches older people who live in Oxfordshire and who are looking for help or companionship at home, with another person who needs affordable accommodation, and can lend a hand. In return for the accommodation, the Sharer gives the Householder up to 10 hours of their time each week as a combination of companionship and practical help, as agreed. Each party pays a monthly fee to Homeshare Oxford. Homeshare Oxford is a part of Age UK Oxfordshire. For more information please email, homeshare@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk or call 01865 410670 or visit our website, www.homeshareoxford.org.uk. Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

About Age UK Oxfordshire

Age UK Oxfordshire is an independent local charity dedicated to giving older people in Oxfordshire comfort, support and opportunities and enabling them to love later life. We provide free local information, advice and support. We work with our national partner, Age UK, and our local Age UK partners in England. You can find further information on all our services and volunteering opportunities by telephoning 0345 450 1276 or by visiting our website: www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire. Age UK Oxfordshire is a charitable company limited by guarantee (registered charity number 1091529 and company number 4328143)